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URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the year

1944.



# Urmston Urban District Council

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Chairman of the Council:

Councillor S N. PENLINGTON, J. P.

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## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

1944 — 1945

Councillor S. C. Shaw, *Chairman*.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. Bull, *Vice-Chairman*.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

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*Medical Officer of Health*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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*Chief Sanitary Inspector—*

\* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

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*Additional Sanitary Inspectors—*

\* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

R. G. CHILD, C.S.I.

\* Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

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*Public Health Department—*

*Chief Clerk—*G. W. Blake. Joined H.M. Forces  
October, 1941.

*Asst. Clerk—*M. Lambert. Joined H. M. Forces  
November, 1940.

*Temporary Asst. Clerk—*S. Rogerson. Appointed Dec., 1940.

„ „ „ —G. Ryder. Appointed July, 1941.

*Typist —*Miss M. Worthington, Directed to  
Industry September, 1943.

„ —Miss B. Harrison.

„ —Mrs. E. Ramsden, Appointed March 1943

# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Year 1944

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The report deals with the year ending December 31st, 1944, and the arrangement of sections is the same as in previous reports, but the report has been again condensed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

It is now possible to give certain figures and tables including statistics of population, which have not been permitted for several years. For the sake of comparison some of these figures are given for each year as far back as 1938, the last complete year before the war.

## SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports.

The following are the estimates by the Registrar General for the years stated :—

		<i>Population</i>
1938	.....	32,030
1939	.....	33,530
1940	.....	34,640
1941	.....	34,430
1942	.....	34,870
1943	.....	34,570
1944	.....	34,910

### NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1938 was 10,530 and is now 11,178.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATE.**—Births registered numbered 752, representing a birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population of 21.5. The following table gives total births, number of illegitimate births and stillbirths for the year 1938—1944.

Year	Total Live Births	Illegitimate Births	Stillbirths.
1938	533	13	24
1939	558	12	27
1940	534	12	22
1941	523	19	16
1942	542	22	25
1943	657	27	25
1944	752	23	16



It will be noted that the illegitimate births have doubled since the beginning of the war. The following table gives the comparison between the birth rates in the Urban District, in the Administrative County and in England and Wales for the same years.

Year	Urmston	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	16.6	14.14	15.1
1939	16.6	14.25	15.0
1940	15.4	14.44	14.6
1941	15.1	14.73	14.2
1942	15.5	15.97	15.8
1943	19.	17.32	16.5
1944	21.5	—	18.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 49 per thousand live births, the lowest since 1940. The mean of the five years 1938-42 for the district was 48.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 37. One-third of the deaths occurred within three days after birth, and two-thirds occurred during the first month. One-half of the deaths occurred outside the urban district.

The principal causes of death were as follows, the number of deaths in each case being indicated by the figure in brackets :—prematurity (8), pneumonia or broncho-pneumonia (8), spina bifida (5), intracranial haemorrhage or cerebral injury (3), marasmus (3), gastro-enteritis (2), atelectasis (2), congenital malformation other than spina bifida (2).

An unusual feature in comparison with recent years is the considerable number of deaths due to congenital malformations (7). No deaths were attributed to misadventure or asphyxia or whooping cough; there was one case of tuberculous meningitis.

The number of deaths of infants in each year from 1938 to 1944 is given in a table under the General Death Rate below.

The infant mortality rates for the Urmston Urban District, the County Administrative Area, and for England and Wales for the same years are given immediately below :—

Year	Urmston	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	26	55	53
1939	48	57	50
1940	45	59	55
1941	65	62	59
1942	62	53	49
1943	56	54	49
1944	49	—	46

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths from puerperal sepsis during the year, but two deaths occurred from other maternal causes; the maternal mortality rate was therefore 2.6 per thousand live and stillbirths; this compares with 2.93 for the year 1943 and with a mean for the years 1938—1942 of 2.85.

## GENERAL DEATH RATE

The total number of deaths during the year was 358; a detailed analysis for the past seven years, giving the causes of death for both sexes is shown in a separate table. The crude death rate per thousand of the estimated population was 10.2, compared with 11.2 for the year 1943; the mean for the five years 1938—42 was 10.6

It is satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria or cerebro-spinal fever. Deaths from influenza were 3 as against the high figure of 18 in the year previous; the deaths from this disease were 3 in 1942 and in 1941. Deaths from pneumonia numbered 14, the lowest figure since 1938. The mortality from violent causes, including road traffic accidents, was the lowest for ten years. On the other hand the mortality from cancer was the highest during that period; this is no doubt largely attributable to the fact that more people now survive to the age when cancer is most common. The following table gives the deaths per thousand of the estimated population for the years 1938 to 1944 for Urmston, the County Administrative Area and for England and Wales.

Year	Urmston	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	9.1	12.29	11.6
1939	10.1	13.04	12.1
1940	12.2	14.34	14.3
1941	10.9	13.06	12.9
1942	10.8	12.31	11.6
1943	11.2	13.26	12.1
1944	10.2	—	11.6

The following table gives the total number of deaths for each of the same years and also the number of deaths of infants under one year of age.

Year	Total Deaths	Deaths of Infants under One year of age
1938	294	14
1939	339	27
1940	423	24
1941	376	34
1942	380	34
1943	389	37
1944	358	37

CAUSES	1941		1942		1943		1944	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory .....	6	2	8	5	9	5	7	5
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory .....	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	1
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—	2	1	—	1	2	—
Influenza .....	3	—	1	2	9	9	—	3
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .....	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	2
Cancer .....	28	27	25	29	27	32	30	33
Diabetes .....	2	1	2	3	—	2	3	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....	20	20	22	23	17	21	21	22
Heart Diseases .....	32	39	41	44	48	39	44	46
Other circulatory diseases .....	8	5	5	3	3	8	2	5
Bronchitis .....	13	18	17	11	19	8	12	12
Pneumonia .....	13	10	11	10	9	10	8	6
Other Respiratory diseases .....	1	3	2	2	3	5	4	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	4	1	3	1	2	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2) .....	2	—	—	2	3	—	1	4
Appendicitis .....	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	1
Other Digestive diseases .....	2	6	4	6	7	5	2	5
Nephritis .....	4	3	4	4	4	8	3	3
Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other Maternal causes .....	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	2
Premature birth .....	3	4	4	5	4	6	3	5
Congenital infantile causes .....	8	1	5	3	5	4	9	10
Suicide .....	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents .....	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	2
Other violent causes .....	8	11	10	2	10	3	3	1
All other causes .....	18	24	20	20	12	17	13	15
Total ...	189	187	194	186	197	192	173	185



## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangement since the last report. The number of examinations carried out in 1944 was 300 made up as follows :—

### SWABS :—

Diphtheria .....	54
Haemolytic .....	31
EXAMINATION OF FAECES.....	27
OTHER SPECIMENS .....	2

### MILK :—

Biological .....	72
Bacteriological .....	76
Phosphatase Test .....	35

### WATER :—

Swimming Bath .....	3
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(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of infectious cases other than smallpox, the ambulances of the Salford Corporation are available; for cases of smallpox the ambulance of the Bury and District Joint Board is available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident and maternity patients, the Council maintains two ambulances at Bowfell Road Depot and a staff of drivers and attendants. The following table gives particulars of calls upon the ambulance service during the year.

1944.	<i>Accident</i>	<i>Sudden Illness</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Other Causes</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1st Qr.	39	16	48	176	279	2483
2nd Qr.	36	3	44	200	283	2973
3rd Qr.	18	6	45	189	258	2613
4th Qr.	31	8	51	195	285	2832
Totals	124	33	188	760	1105	10,901

### (c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**—

There has been no change in these arrangements since my last report.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**— These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows :—



## 1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Davyhulme : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Monday.  
Flixton : Alker Hall, Flixton Road .....2—4 p.m. Tuesday.  
Urmston : "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd., 2—4 p.m. Wednesday.

The number of attendances at these centres totals 13,590 during the year, compared with 10,334 in the previous year and 9,627 in 1942.

2. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. These are held as under :—

- (1) "The Moorlands" Cornhill Rd., Davyhulme, Friday afternoon
- (2) Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, Friday morning and afternoon.

3. SCHOOL CLINIC ("The Moorlands") Minor Ailments—Monday 9-30 to 12-0. Dental, Ophthalmic, Diphtheria Immunisation—by appointment. Orthopaedic cases are seen by appointment at the School Clinic, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead.

4 TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at :—

1. Gilda Brook Road, Eccles.
2. 14, Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.

(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY** : There has been no change in the hospital arrangements since my last report.

(f) **REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE** : A campaign was carried out by the Council in co-operation with the Regional Blood Transfusion Officer and the Ministry of Information in October and included public meetings, showing of films, provision of speakers at factories, posters, and slides in cinemas. As a result of this campaign over a thousand donors were enrolled. The Regional Blood Transfusion Officer offered the services of a mobile team to come into the district for the collecting of blood from the donors; Blood Transfusion Clinics were arranged at Collingwood and the arrangements have worked most satisfactorily.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There is nothing of importance to report in connection with water supply, drainage, sewerage, rivers and streams, or sanitary accommodation.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING**.—In consequence of the necessity for curtailing the report, the usual section dealing with this service is omitted.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS,**—The number of visits and inspections of premises during the year was 3,370 as against 3,210 for 1943. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 157 of which 125 were abated. Statutory Notices were served in 31 instances.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS DURING THE YEAR.**—

Nine houses were found to be infested, this being thirty-four less than in the previous year.

**DISINFECTIONS:** The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 137 during the year under review.

**SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

No new houses were erected during the year either by the Local Authority or by any other persons.

**SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**MILK SUPPLY.**—

(a) **LICENCES.**—The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 have been issued to dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(1) Bottling.....	1
	(2) Dealers .....	4
Accredited Milk—Nil.		
Pasteurised milk	(1) Plants .....	1
	(2) Retail Distributors.....	3

(b) **DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, etc.**

The inspections of these premises during the year numbered 87. There are 26 milk purveyors in the district.

(c) **FARMS.**

There are 13 Dairy Farms and about 219 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 94.

(d) **SAMPLING OF MILK.**

(1) Samples submitted for biological test numbered 72 against 41 in the previous year. The number giving positive results was 5.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological test numbered 76 of which 23 were unsatisfactory.

(3) Samples submitted for the phosphatase test numbered 35 of which 9 were unsatisfactory.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—There is nothing calling for special comment during the year.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**— Notifications of cases of infectious disease amongst civilians numbered 860 as against 760 in the previous year. The increase was due to an epidemic of measles in the last quarter of the year, during which 557 cases were notified. The epidemic continued into the early part of 1945. There were 46 cases of whooping cough notified during the year. Scarlet fever continued to be prevalent in the district, 105 cases being notified as against 139 in the previous year and 104 in 1942. The number of notifications of diphtheria was 6, but of these, three, after admission to hospital, were diagnosed as tonsillitis. This is a new low record for diphtheria in the district. Tables relating to scarlet fever and diphtheria are given below together with details of the immunisation campaign against diphtheria. Four cases of dysentery were admitted to hospital during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Your Medical Officer has been of the opinion for some time that the mild type of case prevalent in the district is better nursed at home rather than in hospital, provided that proper isolation and nursing are available, and that there are no special reasons demanding hospital treatment. This view was put before the local medical practitioners at the beginning of the year and doctors were requested not to promise hospital treatment for cases of scarlet fever without consultation with the Health Department, except in cases of emergency.

In consequence of these representations, the proportion of cases admitted to hospital for this disease has markedly declined as the following table indicates.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospitals.</i>
1942.	1st Quarter	3	1
	2nd „	33	19
	3rd „	14	9
	4th „	54	33
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals ...	104	62
		<hr/>	<hr/>
1943.	1st „	27	18
	2nd „	35	24
	3rd „	55	35
	4th „	22	14
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals ...	139	91
		<hr/>	<hr/>



1944.	1st	„	37	22
	2nd	„	20	6
	3rd		27	6
	4th	„	21	2
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...			105	36
			<hr/>	<hr/>

DIPHTHERIA.—The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria during the last seven years.

#### INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA AMONGST CIVILIANS.

Year.	Under 5	5—14.	15—19.	20—34.	35 & over.	Total.
1938	11	23	5	3	3	45
1939	7	16	3	6	2	34
1940	4	8	—	6	—	18
1941	7	7	3	1	2	20
1942	1	8	2	6	—	17
1943	1	16	3	5	1	26
1944	—	2	1	—	—	3

It may be added that in the first six months of 1945 only one case of diphtheria occurred, this being in a boy of 15 years of age.

The table shows a striking reduction in the incidence of diphtheria amongst children of pre-school age and it can hardly be doubted that this is due to the intensive campaign of diphtheria immunisation which has been carried out in the district. It is estimated that 63% of children under five have been immunised, and as children are not so treated until they attain the age of one year, a higher percentage than 80 cannot be attained. The proportion of school children immunised in the district is estimated to be 80 per cent.

A number of cases occurred in 1943 of children contracting diphtheria who had been immunised four years or more previously; because of this, parents have since been advised by means of cards distributed through the schools that a “stepping-up” dose should be given when a period of four years or more has elapsed since the original immunisation. The response to this suggestion has been very satisfactory and 703 children have received this further preventive treatment.

During 1944 thirty-nine Clinics have been held, at which attendances totalled 1,326; the following table gives the number of children immunised since the scheme was organised by the Council in 1937.



# NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

Year.	School children.	Children under school age.	Total.
1937	397	55	452
1938	1132	251	1383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941	534	384	918
1942	504	588	1092
1943	343	592	935
1944	312	229	541
Totals ...	3437	2284	5721

No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the Clinics.

In addition to the facilities provided at these sessions at the Clinic, it was decided by resolution of the Council in December, 1940, that medical practitioners be supplied free of cost with immunising materials for use in their Surgeries for children resident in the district.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free by the Council and available at local chemists and also at the Urmston Police Station by day or night, at times when chemists supplies are not available.

**WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES.**—The Council on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health agreed in December, 1940, to supply free of cost to Medical Practitioners suitable vaccines or sera for the treatment or prevention of these diseases, in accordance with Section 65 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. So far, only vaccines or antigens for whooping cough have been used, there being no demand for measles serum.

**SCABIES.**—The Scabies Order came into force on 28th October, 1941. During the year under review 43 cases came to the notice of the Public Health Department through information received from the Manchester Skin Hospital, the School Clinic or local medical practitioners; these were all visited and advice given.

In December 1943 the Council decided on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health to establish a Cleansing and Treatment Centre at Collingwood First Aid Post, to which persons suffering from Scabies could be referred by their medical practitioner.

Treatment consists of a warm shower followed by the application of the Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion by a trained nurse or First Aid man, the patient returning on the third day for a further shower and bringing a change of underclothing; the scheme has worked satisfactorily. From December 1st, 1943 to December 31st, 1944, 68 patients were treated for Scabies at Collingwood, each case involving three attendances.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—Although there has been a tendency for mortality from tuberculosis to rise in some areas since the war began, there appears to have been a decline during the past two years in this district as the following table shows:—

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
1st Quarter	7	8	9	7	5
2nd Quarter	9	10	5	4	9
3rd Quarter	9	4	9	10	7
4th Quarter	10	6	13	9	4
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	35	28	36	30	25
	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ...	13	8	13	10	12

NEW NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
1st Quarter	4	2	6	6	2
2nd Quarter	4	6	3	9	3
3rd Quarter	3	3	4	5	5
4th Quarter	5	6	11	7	2
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	16	17	24	27	12
	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ...	1	5	4	1	3

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the work of the members of the staff of the Public Health Department during the year, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee for the help and support given to the Department in all its activities.

A. V. STOCKS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





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